

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendments and remarks contained herein in response to the Office Action mailed September 22, 2005. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment and remarks contained herein place the instant application in condition for allowance.

Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 15 and 21 – 39 remain pending. In particular, Applicants add claims 21 – 39, and cancel claims 1 – 14 and 16 – 20 without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicants cancel these claims merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these canceled claims in a continuing application, if Applicants so choose, and do not intend to dedicate the canceled subject matter to the public. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

I. Examiner Interview

Applicants first wish to express their sincere appreciation for the time that Examiner Gauthier spent with Applicants' Attorney, Anthony Bonner during a telephone discussion on November 2, 2005 regarding the outstanding Office Action. During that conversation, Mr. Bonner pointed out that although the Office Action rejects claim 15 as being obvious in light of the "Reynolds" reference, Applicants are not provided with a patent number by which to access this reference. Examiner Gauthier indicated that because of this, any subsequent Office Action, if necessary, should be nonfinal.

Additionally, Mr. Bonner and Examiner Gauthier discussed potential amendments to the pending claims. Examiner Gauthier seemed to indicate that it would be potentially beneficial for Applicants to make amendments contained herein. More specifically, Examiner Gauthier seemed to indicate that amending the claims to more clearly indicate that a conversion of a received digital voicemail message into an analog voicemail message occurs would be beneficial. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that Examiner Gauthier carefully consider this response and the amendments.

II. Canceled Claims 1 – 14 and 16 – 20

The Office Action indicates that claims 1 – 14 and 16 – 20 stand rejected. While Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, Applicants cancel these claims, and consider this rejection moot.

III. Claim 15 is Patentable Over *Skladman* in View of *Reynolds*

The Office Action indicates that claim 15 stands rejected as being anticipated by U.S. patent number 6,487,278 B1 (“*Skladman*”) in view of *Reynolds*. As indicated above, Applicants have received no indication of a reference number to *Reynolds*. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, and submit a subsequent Office Action, if necessary, should be non-final. 37 C.F.R. 1.104(b) (“The examiner’s action will be complete as to all matters”) and 37 C.F.R. 1.104(d)(1) (“If domestic patents are cited by the examiner, their numbers... will be stated...”).

IV. New Claims 21 – 39 are Allowable

A. New Claim 21 is Patentable Over the Cited Art

Applicants submit that new claim 21 is allowable for at least the reason that the cited references fail to disclose a “system for accessing messages sent from a caller for a callee, the system comprising... a digital voicemail system configured to store a received digital voicemail message, the digital voicemail system including *means for converting the received digital voicemail message into an analog voicemail message*, wherein the converted analog message is configured for storage at the analog voicemail system...” as recited in new claim 21.

B. New Claim 27 is Patentable Over the Cited Art

Applicants submit that new claim 27 is allowable for at least the reason that the cited references fail to disclose a “digital voicemail system for receiving voicemail from a caller for a callee, the system comprising logic configured to send a query for determining whether the callee is a subscriber of an analog voicemail system... [and] logic configured to, in response to receiving an indication that the callee is a subscriber of an analog voicemail system, convert a received digital voicemail message into an analog voicemail message...” as recited in new claim 27.

C. New Claim 34 is Patentable Over the Cited Art

Applicants submit that new claim 34 is allowable for at least the reason that the cited references fail to disclose a “method at a digital voicemail system for receiving voicemail from a caller for a callee, the method comprising sending a query for determining whether the callee is a subscriber of an analog voicemail system... [and] in response to receiving an indication that the

callee is s subscriber of an analog voicemail system, converting a received digital voicemail message into an analog voicemail message...” as recited in new claim 34.

D. Claims 22 – 26, 28 – 33, and 35 – 39 are Patentable Over the Cited Art

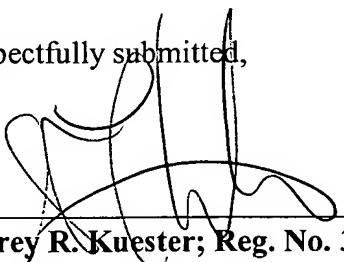
In addition, dependent claims 22 – 26 are believed to be allowable for at least the reason that these claims depend from allowable independent claim 21. Further, dependent claims 28 – 33 are believed to be allowable for at least the reason that they depend from allowable independent claim 27. Additionally, dependent claims 35 – 39 are believed to be allowable for at least the reason that these claims depend from allowable independent claim 34. *In re Fine, Minnesota Mining and Mfg. Co. v. Chemque, Inc.*, 303 F.3d 1294, 1299 (Fed. Cir. 2002).

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested.

Any other statements in the Office Action that are not explicitly addressed herein are not intended to be admitted. In addition, any and all findings of inherency are traversed as not having been shown to be necessarily present. Further, any and all findings of well-known art and official notice, or statements interpreted similarly, should not be considered well known for at least the specific and particular reason that the Office Action does not include specific factual findings predicated on sound technical and scientific reasoning to support such conclusions. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,



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